



STANDING UP SPECIALTY RESERVE BATTALIONS



The Marine Corps plans to stand up specialty Reserve battalions including one dedicated to law enforcement, said Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos during a speech Friday in downtown Washington. These units would help the Corps maintain a cadre of Marines with specialized skills that can be called upon in a time of crisis, Amos told guests at the 39th IFPA-Fletcher Conference on National Security Strategy and Policy. As an example, he cited the need for police investigative skills, like those used in Anbar province, Iraq, beginning in 2003 to disband insurgent cells. "We were trying to find who

the bomb makers were. We were trying to find who the people were funneling people in across the borders and into Anbar province to cause trouble," he said. "We didnt have the investigative kind of forensic skill sets in the Marine Corps to do that." Non-traditional fights against criminals and insurgents require a set of skills akin to those used by civilian officers fighting narcotics organizations in Americas largest cities, he said.

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Above summary written by James Sanborn, reporter for the Marine Corps Times.

RUMORS OF DEMISE, GREATLY EXAGGERATED

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., recently addressed the attendees of the 2011 Navy League, Sea Air Space Exposition. In his comments, Gen. Dunford noted that the rumors of the Marine Corps' demise were greatly exaggerated. "The security environment and equipment changes over time ... the tactics, techniques, and procedures evolve ... but what hasn't changed ... and what won't change is our role as the nation's crisis response force of choice." In closing, Gen Dunford noted the Marine Corps' confidence, "that the Corps offers the nation unique capabilities in the years to come. In an era of tight budgets and uncertainty ... We believe we're a reasonably priced insurance policy ... and history has shown [the] cost of not having that insurance."



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Transcripts of the above referenced remarks will be provided in future editions of the Marine Corps Connection.

NEWS

COMMANDANT ANNOUNCES NEXT SERGEANT MAJOR



On April 11, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos announced Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett as the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Barrett, who currently commands 1st Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., will succeed Sgt. Maj.



Carlton Kent. Barrett will take command during an appointment and relief ceremony held at Marine Barracks Washington June 9, coinciding with Kent's retirement ceremony. Barrett recently returned from a deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, where he served as Regional

Command Southwest's Sergeant Major. Amos believes Barrett is the best of the best and through his long and distinguished service to our nation, has demonstrated that he is particularly well-suited to serve as his senior enlisted advisor through the challenges ahead.

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ENGINEERS CONNECT VILLAGES IN MARJAH



Combat outposts and patrol bases near Camp Hanson are no longer solely dependent on helicopter support teams (HSTs) for resupplies, since they can now be reached by land due to the efforts of Marines and Sailors from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) who recently reconstructed nearly 20 miles of road. Nearly 70 Marines and

Sailors with 8th ESB made major improvements to several roads since the end of December to enhance accessibility into the deepest areas of Marjah, Afghanistan. With improved roads, Marines have more flexibility to operate based on tactical needs instead of logistical constraints. "The battalions operating in this area can now push their HSTs further where they really need them, so they can establish their patrol bases where the [enemy] is," said Warrant Officer Tim E. Kessler, Equipment Platoon commander with 8th ESB, 2nd MLG (Fwd.). "So far, we have reached six patrol bases, which were HST-supported only and now they can receive their supplies via land." Afghans will benefit from these roads too, which they will use to get to their farms and houses faster.

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[Read the RC-Southwest Weekly News Roundup >>](#)

LEJEUNE RECOVERING AFTER TORNADO



Several residents of a Camp Lejeune, N.C., neighborhood were injured Saturday when a highly destructive tornado cut through the area around 9 p.m. and damaged more than 100 homes. Of the homes damaged, 12 have been deemed uninhabitable, as many as 60 sustained structural damage severe enough that may make them uninhabitable and about 50 more had minor damages, such as broken windows, torn gutters and roof damage, Camp Lejeune spokesman Nat Fahy said. The violent

twister was part of a major storm front that slammed many areas of North Carolina on Saturday. "This is going to sound cliché, but it does resemble a war zone in some areas while other areas remain untouched. It cut a surgical path of destruction, which impacted the primary school before leaving the base," Fahy said of Tarawa Terrace Primary School where the metal roof was peeled back and classrooms suffered major water damage. Temporary shelter was opened at Tarawa Terrace Elementary School for displaced residents who needed immediate help, and the 250 students in pre-kindergarten through first grade who attend the primary school will finish out the year at the elementary school, he said.

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[See Also: Jacksonville Daily News Blog that is running updates as they happen >>](#)

Above summary written by Gina Cavallaro, reporter for the Marine Corps Times.

PRESIDENTIAL HMX-1 BIG IRONS REASSIGNED

After 44 years of service at the Corps' most historic helicopter squadron, the last CH-53 helicopters from Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 will soon be reassigned to the operating forces. The CH-53s will be redistributed as part of the Marine Corps fiscal year 2011 aviation campaign plan,



which will increase the Corps' number of CH-53E helicopter squadrons. Honored at an April 15 ceremony at HMX-1, the CH-53 was an integral part in presidential support missions since 1967. The CH-53 was responsible for green side HMX-1 missions: supporting the executive flight detachment; transporting the White House staff, United States Secret Service, and White House press corps; and facilitating training aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico. The CH-46E medium lift helicopter, known affectionately as the Phrog, will fill the gap at HMX-1, created by the CH-53s departure, until V-22 Ospreys arrive in the summer of 2013. All CH-53 pilots at HMX-1 are in the process of re-qualifying on the CH-46.

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FIRST MARINES, SOLDIERS OF NEW INTEGRATED OPS CHIEF AND OFFICER PROGRAM GRADUATE

Senior enlisted and commissioned Marines, along with a handful of Army officers, filled a Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group (MCTOG) classroom for the very first integrated Ground Operations Chief Course and Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course graduation April 8, 2011. In January, Gen. James F. Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps, signed into effect the Operations & Tactics Training Program Marine Corps Order 3502.7 that requires operations chiefs and officers to become certified as operations and tactics instructors before assuming an operations leadership billet.

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MONUMENT TO HONOR FIRST BLACK MARINES

In honor of the first black Marines, the Montford Point Marine



Association hopes to see a monument erected in Jacksonville, N.C., by summer 2012. Between 1940 and 1949, 20,000 of the first black Marines to join the Corps entered training at the segregated Montford Point Marine base, now known as Camp Johnson in



Jacksonville, N.C. Montford Point Marine Association national monument director Houston Shinal commented that no records have preserved all their names, but a memorial could keep their memories alive. Though the association has discussed a monument to the Montford Point Marines for years, Shinal said organization members began to push for a date of completion last summer, securing an architecture company, Smith-Sinnett of Raleigh, and finding a designer, O. Liam Wright, a nephew of one of the original Montford Point troops. For the association, it is important to complete the project so. Many of the original troops are in their 80s and 90s now, some seven decades after their enlistment in the Marine Corps. We would like to have it completed while some of the original Montford Point Marines are still living, Shinal said.

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[Click here to learn more about the Monument >>](#)

SEMPER FIDELIS MEMORIAL PARK



On April 14, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation dedicated the 23-acre Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, which includes a rustic chapel, trains, statues and places for visitors to stop for reflection. The chapel, made of timber, stone and glass, evokes the memory of improvised battlefield chapels in faraway lands where Marines found refuge from the carnage around them. It opened in October 2009. Last month, the Foundation announced plans for a hotel and conference center on 10 acres adjacent to the museum. Retired Lt. Gen. Ron

Christmas, president and chief executive officer of the Foundation, noted that the components of the site add to the overall impact. "The addition of a hotel and conference center will not only advance the mission of the Marine Corps University," at Marine Corps

Base Quantico, located next to the property, "but also significantly benefit Marines and their families visiting the [museum]," Christmas said. The museum, off Interstate 95 in Triangle, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Christmas Day. Admission and parking are free.

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HERO OF THE WEEK

EOD MARINES EARN RECOGNITION FOR VALOR



Master Sgt. Charles Spencer received a Bronze Star with valor device. "I was his teammate. I was there the day it all went down," said Sgt. Anthony Calloway, motor transportation noncommissioned officer-in-charge with 3rd EOD Co. "As the citation was being read, I was there all over again." Calloway recounted the actions that earned Spencer the bronze star following an improvised explosive device blast that disabled Spencers vehicle. During a deployment in Afghanistan, Spencer found a

secondary IED and immediately alerted the other three dismounted Marines, allowing them to quickly get to safety. Then, he neutralized the device while under fire and at great risk to himself. During the deployment, Spencer was responsible for rendering 45 IEDs. "It felt good to be recognized for outstanding duty during the ceremony as well as bring recognition to the work of EOD technicians," said Spencer.

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EVENTS

MCA HOSTS 2011 GROUND AWARDS DINNER

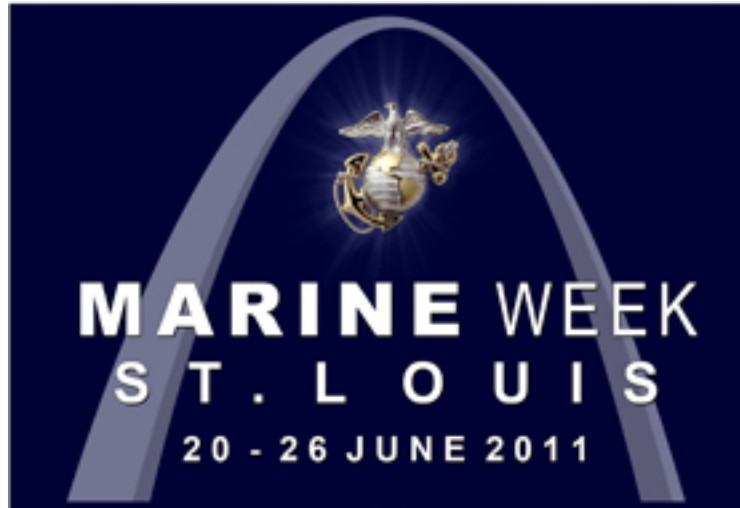
The Marine Corps Association (MCA) invites you to celebrate the work of our fellow Marines over this past year at the 2011 Ground Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 5, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va. General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, will serve as the evening's guest speaker. MCA will recognize the four

Marine Divisions' Marines of the Year, the 2010 Leftwich Trophy Winner, the Hulbert Trophy Winner and the Chambers Award Winner. MCA is the host of the event in coordination with HQMC PP&O. Dress is coat and tie or correlating Marine uniform.

[Click here to register >>](#)

SAVE THE DATE

MARINE WEEK ST. LOUIS VIDEO POSTED ON YOUTUBE



Marine Week St. Louis is just around the corner. Be sure to check out all the action during Marine Week, including combat demonstrations, static equipment and band performances at the three Marine Week locations: Ballpark Village at Busch Stadium, the Gateway Arch, and Soldiers' Memorial. A complete Marine Week schedule will be released later this month at www.marines.mil/marineweek. Currently, more than 2,300 active duty and reserve Marines from Missouri are serving at home and overseas,

including Marines participating in combat operations in Afghanistan. Click the link below to watch a Marine Week teaser which was created by Sgt. Alvaro Aro, Media and Public Affairs Representative for 9th Marine Corps District, Recruiting Station St. Louis.

[See the Video on the Marine Week Website >>](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



When M&M'S were first created in 1941, they were sold exclusively to the military for an entire year. Now, M&M'S is featuring the "The Few, The Proud" in a first-ever U.S.M.C tribute figurine. After all, the Marines are always looking for a few good M&M'S!!



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